

Frondzi Will Tell U.S. In Latin America Are Doomed - *Newsweek*

President Eisenhower reaches Argentina tomorrow. He's been told his visit will be the last. President Arturo Frondizi was there ahead of him for this exclusive interview.

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Buenos Aires, - Argentina's President Arturo Frondizi, the first elected civilian chief in 20 years of this troubled republic, will tell President Eisenhower that dictatorship is doomed in Latin America.

"We are thru with dictators - both dictators who say they fight Communism and Communist dictators, too," said this scholarly 51-year-old president in an exclusive interview here in the Casa Rosada (pink house) where he receives President Eisenhower tomorrow.

"But, with the whole continent firmly on the road to democracy, we run into tremendous problems, too. All over Latin America there are masses of people who live in misery and ignorance. Don't forget, within 15 years there will be 300 million people living in Latin America. Twenty-five years later we'll have 600 million. And, not only are they multiplying in numbers; their legitimate appetites are multiplying too."

A President's Burden

Despite his six foot tall and thin, his nickname is "Skinny." President Frondizi personifies the dilemma of a sober-thinking South American patriot trying to pull his country up out of the wreckage of a bankrupt dictatorship. As a politician he's finding the leadership job here, after a decade by Juan D. Peron, not easy - particularly since he got the presidency with a lot of Peronista support.

"There's no danger of Peron coming back to power," said Frondizi, confident despite an estimated 2.5 million Peronista adherents who still agitate for the old dictator's programs. But Frondizi concedes the habit is not easy to break.

"For many years we had a mystic emotion built up here. The country was encouraged to consume more than it produced. Artificial high standards of living here were built up. Argentina was short of capital. In 1955, when Peron came to power we had \$1.7 billion in gold to recredit. In 1958 when I came in we had only \$3.5 billion."

Labor Rebels

Science has proved no more than he believed elsewhere: Marxism still had hoped to sweep into dictatorship without pulling up Peron's labor unions. Benefits are paid at present rates, a sternly belt-tightening that's only since so much is left for him. On the other hand, some army officers



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dislike Frondizi for trying to keep on speaking terms with left wing and Peronista labor.

In two years as president, Frondizi has had to cope with military coups, Peronista putsches, and Communist-sparked strikes almost a dozen, and all unsuccessful somehow of a La Ramblean survival team for a soft-spoken lawyer. Does he mind being called unpopular?

"I am calm," says Frondizi, picking his words carefully. "A man who comes to office must work not for his own popularity but for the benefit of all his people. I sleep with a clear conscience."

He Turns Conservative

The success of democracy, in fact as survived in Argentina may well be tied to the success of Frondizi. An economist with radical tendencies since his youth, he was elected in the post-Peron chaos on a platform of economic nationalism, finally "Argentina for the Argentines," that got him the Peronist and Communist vote when he probably needed to win. But, once in office, he recognized tough necessities, saying conservative, invited foreign producers in to speed up oil production and won the Communists' and Peronists' hatred.

"Communism constitutes an insignificant proportion of our republic, but it's a subversive force which we've banned accordingly. However, you can't talk about Communism in Latin America without considering

those two facts which are so fundamental, namely the vast poverty and ignorance in so many places. While these exist, a field for Communism also exists."

Relations With U. S.

Does President Frondizi think the United States has been guilty of neglecting Latin America?

"Yes," he answers. "They have long forgotten that we or our problems exist. But there's a change now in U. S. thinking, I believe. You know now that 200 million people live here, eager for peace, freedom, progress and justice."

President Frondizi sees the visit of President Eisenhower as evidence of this change. "This will strengthen our ties with your great nation," he said. In proud Argentina where such sentiments have not always been popular, Frondizi's firm voice carried the conviction that Ike's welcome for Ike will be warmly sincere.

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